



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Topographic Engineering
Center

Information Bulletin

*U.S. Army 1999 Research &
Development Organization of the Year*

September 22, 1999

OFFICIAL

ERDC Standup Ceremony

MG Russell Fuhrman, Deputy Chief of Engineers, will be the guest speaker at the official standup ceremony for the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) on 1 October, at 1000 (EDT).

The ceremony, which will be held in Vicksburg, will be broadcast live to all sites. Dr. Roper will participate in the ceremony in Vicksburg.

More details will be provided in next week's Bulletin.

Director's Meeting Notes – 20 September

Leonard Vickers briefed on resourcing of communications costs at ERDC sites. He also gave an update on almost completed efforts to connect TEC researchers to the DREN (Defense Research and Engineering Network). Frank Capece gave a report on the joint Program Management, MIS, and Planning and Programming IPT meeting he attended last week in Vicksburg.

Susquehanna-Lackawanna Environmental Master Plan

All inquiries, from any source outside DRD or ERDC, concerning the Susquehanna-Lackawanna Environmental Master Plan project should be directed to the Baltimore District project manager, Stacey Underwood, at (410) 962-4977, or the technical manager, Pete Noy, at (410) 962-6100. If you require further information concerning this policy please contact Frank Capece or Dr. Roper.

National Hispanic Heritage Month

President Clinton has proclaimed Sep. 15 – Oct. 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month. Please see the attachment for more information.

FEHB Open Season Dates

The 2000 open enrollment period for the Federal Employees Health Benefits program runs from November 8 to December 13. Eligible federal and postal employees and retirees can stay with their

current health plan or select a new plan during that period. More information will be available as we near the open season dates. See <http://www.opm.gov/> for the new rates and other information.

TSP Loans

The interest rate for new Thrift Savings Plan loans is 6.25 percent. All loan and withdrawal requests must be approved by October 6 for payment in October.

Meetings and Presentations

On 27 September, from 1000-1130, in CR 3, Dr. Ralph Toms, who has been developing faster coordinate transformation algorithms at SRI, and will be working on a coordinate transformation handbook for AMIP next year, will discuss the following areas:

- SEDRIS coordinate transformation services.
- Requirements for coordinate framework services in
 - SEDRIS,
 - real time simulation,
 - embedded systems and
 - mapping , Charting and Geodesy.
- Computational aspects of coordinate transformations/algorithms.
- Error analysis methodologies.
- Plans for the AMIP CORTRAN project.

On 5 October, from 1330-1500, in CR 1, Mr. Michael Miller of Lizard Tech, Inc. will give a presentation of his company's "Mr. SID" imagery compression software. All interested TEC personnel are invited to attend. Note that Fred Knudsen & Brian Bloss have some working knowledge of the capabilities of this software. Please direct any technical questions concerning "Mr. SID" to them

Calendar of Events

29 Sep	TEC Tour for Australian personnel. POC: Jaime Garcia
1 Oct	ERDC standup ceremony
7 Oct	TEC Town Hall – Kingman Bldg – 0900-1100
18 Oct	Eagle Vision II ribbon cutting ceremony. POC: Laz Greczy
20-21 Oct	ERDC PMB meeting – Atlanta. POC: Dr Roper
22 Oct	Research & Development Organization of the Year ceremony, Pentagon.
26 Oct	District Engineers visit to TEC 0800-1200. POC: Bob Heidelberg.
16 Dec	TEC Holiday Party – Cruise on <i>Spirit of Washington</i>

Arrivals/Departures/Vacancies

Arrivals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Date</u>
Swanson, Randall (Cartographer)	GID	10-24-99

Departures:

Vuong, Trinh	OD	10-09-99, promotion
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Open Announcements:

Senior Research Scientist
ST-1301

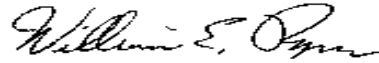
TEC

Open: 08-02-99
Close: 11-01-99

Computer Specialist
GS-0334-5/7/9

TSB

Open: 09-09-99
Close: 09-24-99



WILLIAM E. ROPER, Ph.D., PE
Director

BOBBIE F. KERNS, JR.
Deputy Director Laboratory Management

National Hispanic Heritage Month 1999

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we reflect on the history of a people who were part of this land long before the birth of the United States. Hispanics were among the earliest European settlers in the New World, and Hispanics as a people -- like their many cultures -- share a rich history and great diversity. Hispanic Americans have roots in Europe, Africa, and South and Central America and close cultural ties to Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, South America, and Spain. This diversity has brought variety and richness to the mosaic that is America and has strengthened our national character with invaluable perspective, experiences, and values.

Through the years, Hispanic Americans have played an integral role in our Nation's success in science, the arts, business, government, and every other field of endeavor, and their talent, creativity, and achievements continue to energize our national life. For example, Hispanic Americans serve as NASA astronauts, including Dr. Ellen Ochoa, the first Hispanic woman in space. Mario Molina of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology shared a Nobel Prize in chemistry for research that raised awareness of the threat that chloro-fluorocarbons pose to the earth's protective ozone layer. Cuban-American writer Oscar Hijuelos earned a Pulitzer Prize for fiction.

The achievements of today's Hispanic Americans build upon a long tradition of contributions by Hispanics in many varied fields. Before Dr. Ochoa and other Hispanic Americans began to explore the frontiers of space, Hernando de Soto and Francisco V'squez de Coronado ventured into the vast uncharted land of the New World. A thousand years before Mario Molina calculated the effects of human actions on the atmosphere, Mayan priests accurately predicted solar and lunar eclipses. And before Oscar Hijuelos described a Cuban family's emigration to 1940s America, Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra gave us the classic adventures of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza.

Today, people of Hispanic heritage are an increasingly important and growing segment of our Nation's population. Studies show that, in just a few years, Hispanics will form the largest minority group in the United States. In little more than a decade, Hispanic Americans will wield buying power of nearly \$1 trillion per year. And by the middle of the next century, if population trends continue, almost one-fourth of our population will be Spanish-speaking. The success of these citizens is vital to our continued national prosperity, and we must ensure that they are empowered with the tools and opportunities they need to thrive in the next century.

That is why my Administration has worked to widen the circle of economic opportunity, enforce our civil rights laws, invest in health and education, and promote racial reconciliation. We have launched a major initiative to mobilize the resources and expertise of the Federal Government, the private sector, and local communities to end racial and ethnic disparities in health conditions and health care. We established the first-ever Office of Minority Health Research and Alternative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. We also have sought to expand our Hispanic Education Action Plan with an additional \$480 million for improving educational programs and institutions serving high concentrations of Hispanic students. We cannot seize the enormous opportunities of the 21st century if a large percentage of our children lack the skills and knowledge they need to reach their full potential.

In honor of the many contributions that Hispanic Americans have made and continue to make to our Nation and our culture, the Congress, by Public Law 100-402, has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating September 15 through October 15 as "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 1999, as National Hispanic Heritage Month. I call upon government officials, educators, and the people of the United States to honor this observance with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs, and I encourage all Americans to rededicate themselves to the pursuit of equality.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-nine, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON